



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

## Meeting Minutes

### Representative Town Meeting

**Moderator Scott L. Newsome, Representatives Karin Adams, Robert Bailey, Jeanne Baker, Joe Baril, Alicia T. Bauer, Rafael Burgos, Jr., Clarence Casper, Bobbi Jo Cini, Christine Conley, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, Jim Evans, Thomas A. Frickman, Bob Garcia, Nancy Gilly, Matthew G. Longino, Jim Loughlin, Emily Maher, Brandon Marley, Jackie Massett, Lisa McCabe, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe L. Merritt, Jim Nault, Kathy Neugent, Lian Obrey, Juliette M. Parker, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Carolann Quinn, Dutcha Sliker-Hersant, Joan Steinfeld, Irma J. Streeter, James L. Streeter, Archie Swindell, Patricia Wagner, Lori A. Watrous, Gary Welles, Ivy R. Williams, and Jonathan Wilson.**

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Thursday, April 28, 2016

7:00 PM

Groton Senior Center

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#### ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

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*Moderator Scott Newsome called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.*

#### A. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Moderator Newsome, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Baker, Rep. Casper, Rep. Cini, Rep. Conley, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Sliker-Hersant, Rep. Longino, Rep. Maher, Rep. Marley, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCabe, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Nault, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Quinn, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Welles and Rep. Wilson  
Members Absent: Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Burgos, Jr., Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Evans, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Obrey, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Wagner and Rep. Williams

*He stated that 27 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Human Resources Director Robert Zagami, Finance Director Cindy Landry, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Graner, Board of Education Chairman Kim Shepardson Watson, Town Mayor Bruce Flax, Registrars of Voters Kristen Venditti and Paul Duarte, City Mayor Marian Galbraith, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.*

#### B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag.*

#### C. CALL OF THE MEETING

##### 2016-0106 Annual RTM Budget Meeting

RESOLUTION SETTING RTM BUDGET MEETING DATE ON THE FYE 2017 ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET

WHEREAS, Section 9.3.1 of the Groton Town Charter requires that the Town Council determine the date for the annual budget meeting of the Representative Town Meeting, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center, Newtown Road, Groton, Connecticut.

#### D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

*Penelope Fox, 221 Elm Street, spoke in support of the Groton Public Library. The proposed cut to the Groton Public Library will directly impact the 223,000 people who visited it last year. She requested that the RTM support the Town Council's approved funding and keep the award winning Library and it's team at the forefront of community service.*

*Susan Keitzman, 25 West Mystic Ave, spoke in support of the Groton Public Library. She asked the RTM to please consider restoring any cuts made to the current budget.*

*Bob Martin, 23 Pegasus Drive, asked the RTM not to raise taxes.*

*Madeline Martin, 23 Pegasus Drive, stated that tough choices need to be made. She requested that the RTM cut what is necessary to keep taxes low.*

*Todd Brady, 17 Water Street, supports Economic Development and the re-writing of Groton's Zoning Regulations. He stated that while the RTM investigates budget cuts, it should also take steps to grow the tax base and create jobs.*

*Jody Katz, 57 Murphy's Drive, spoke in support of the Groton Public Library.*

*Catherine Young, 14 Bushnell Street, supports the Office of Planning and Development Services. She stated that now is the time to implement the recommendations of the Town's Market Analysis and Zoning Audit Project.*

*Al Valente, 60 Haley Road, Mystic, spoke in support of the proposed budget for the Office of Planning and Development. He stated that the Economic Development pays for itself. He requested that the town fund the zoning re-write and get Groton back on track.*

*Keith Hedrick, 156 Shennecossett Parkway, stated that rather than cutting 5% across the board, each department should be looked at separately. He supports the City Police, Highway Maintenance and Street Lighting Accounts. Support City of Groton Police as you support Town Police. Do not balance the budget on the back of City taxpayers.*

*George Mathanool, 67 Tyler Avenue, stated his support for the Office of Planning and Development Services. He stated that the Town has a critical revenue problem and that full funding of the Office of Planning and Development budget should be a priority.*

*Bruce Flax, 632 Noank Road, stated that the Town Council had recently added \$15,000 to the Legislative Policy Account, \$10,000 for the Heritage Park Taxi and \$5,000 for the Sub Century Groton Week. He requested that the RTM approve these additional funds.*

#### **E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS**

*Reps. Burgos, Swindell, Wagner and Williams notified the Town Clerk that they were unable to attend tonight's meeting.*

#### **F. BUDGET UPDATE - Town Manager & Superintendent of Schools**

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger spoke about Groton's revenue problems and ramifications of budget cuts. He also discussed the memorandum handed out to all members concerning the Town Attorney's opinion on the minimum budget requirements for education cost sharing grants.*

*Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Graner and Board of Education Chairman Kim Shepardson Watson spoke about the BOE approved FYE 2017 budget. The brochure handed out to all members showed a FY17 budget overview which included, contractual verses discretionary needs, budget history and BOE grants revenue. It showed a line by line increase/decrease amount for every account in their budget for the past three fiscal years.*

*Rep. Cini asked about the reasoning for some of the increases shown in the brochure.*

*Moderator Newsome stated that those questions would be more appropriate at the BOE budget meeting on May 5th.*

*Responding to Rep. Wilson, Dr. Graner stated that the decrease in enrollment does not include students that go to magnet schools.*

*Rep. McDermott appreciates the zero percent increase in the BOE budget and thanked the BOE for their efforts. He also requested an update on any magnet school programs.*

*Dr. Graner stated that they started a performing arts magnet program at Northeast Academy and have had 55 applications for 20 positions.*

*Rep. McDermott called for a Republican caucus at 8:18 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:55 p.m.*

**G. COMMITTEE REPORTS  
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Quinn read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 6, 2016. Minutes are on file.*

*Discussion followed on the approval of minutes. There were two meetings and the discussion revolved around if the minutes should be approved as one meeting or individually.*

*Proper parliamentary procedure was followed.*

*A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Moderator Newsome, seconded by Rep. Wilson.*

*The vote on approval of the amended minutes carried 26 in favor, 1 abstention. Abstaining: Rep. Longino.*

*Chairman Quinn read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 12, 2016. Minutes are on file.*

*A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*The vote on approval of the minutes carried 26 in favor, 1 abstention. Abstaining: Rep. Longino.*

*Rep. Watrous disclosed that she is a Town employee working in the Town Assessor's Office.*

*Rep. Wilson disclosed that he he is a volunteer member of the Mystic River Ambulance and the City of Groton Fire Department.*

**Account 1001- Legislative Policy**

*A motion for \$37,591 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini.*

*Rep. Massett asked what ramifications the reduction would have on this account and would this figure support Mayor Flax request to the RTM to approve the added \$10,000 for Heritage Park Taxi and \$5,000 for the Sub Century Groton Week.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that this account supports, among others, the Town Council and RTM and that figure would not support Mayor Flax request.*

*Rep. Nault does not support the funding of the Jabez Smith House of over \$2,000 in this account.*

*Rep. Marley concurs with Rep. Nault, Jabez Smith House should not be funded. The Town should sell the building to Groton Ambulance and have them pay taxes for the use of the building.*

Rep. Conley stated for clarification purposes that the Finance Committee meetings were before the Town Council added the \$15,000 to this account.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$52,591 was made by Rep. McDermott, seconded by Rep. Frickman.

The amendment adds the \$15,000 to the account requested by Mayor Flax.

The vote on the amendment carried 15 in favor, 12 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Casper, Conley, Cini, Deane-Shinbrot, Marley, McCabe, Nault, Parker, Pasqualini, Quinn and J. Streeter.

Rep. Cini departed, 26 members present.

#### **Account 1003 - Voter Registration**

A motion for \$149,694 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Wilson.

In response to Rep. I Streeter, Registrar Venditti stated that if the current figure was approved, the clerks hours would be cut and so would public services.

Responding to Rep. Marley, Registrar Venditti stated that Volume 3 Title 9 of the General Statutes of Connecticut impose state mandates for elections.

Rep. Nault supports the cuts as the office was operational for a state election with \$28,000 less than requested this year.

Rep. Steinford stated that \$8,000 is a big cut and understands all the paperwork that is involved. It is a presidential election year and more people will be needed.

Registrar Venditti confirmed that an additional \$7,000 for wages is needed for an election year.

Responding to Rep. Nault, Registrar Duarte stated that a possible August primary is a concern for additional funding

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Marley, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini.

The vote on moving the question carried 25 in favor, 1 opposed. Opposed: Rep. Wilson.

The vote on \$149,694 carried 19 in favor, 6 opposed, 1 abstention. Opposed: Reps. Massett, Newsome, Parker, Steinford, Watrous and Welles. Abstaining: Rep. I Streeter.

At 10:32 p.m. the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 2 at 7:00 p.m

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#### **Budget Session - Monday, May 2, 2016**

Moderator Scott Newsome called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m

Members Present: Moderator Newsome, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Baker, Rep. Burgos, Rep. Casper, Rep. Cini, Rep. Conley, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Sliker-Hersant, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCabe, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Nault, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini Jr, Rep. Steinford, Rep. I. Streeter, Rep. J. Streeter, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Welles and Rep. Wilson.  
Members Absent: Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Evans, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Longino, Rep. Maher, Rep. Marley, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Obrey, Rep. Quinn, Rep. Swindell and Rep. Williams.

*He stated that 29 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

*The Moderator reported that Reps. Swindell and Williams notified the Town Clerk of their absence.*

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, Public Works Admin Supervisor Stacey Leitch, Parks & Recreation Director Mark Berry, Town Councilor Bonnie Nault, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Town Clerk Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.*

*Reps Bauer and Marley arrived, 31 members present.*

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Deane-Shinbrot read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 14, 2016. Minutes are on file.*

*Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini and so voted unanimously as amended.*

*Reps Maher and Quinn arrived, 33 members present.*

#### **Account 1035 - Public Works**

*A motion for \$6,060,783 as approved by committee was by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$6,009,910 was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Rep. Conley stated that this is the Town Council approved amount.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$6,009,910 carried 26 in favor 7 oppose. Opposed: Reps. Frickman, Massett, Steinfeld, I Streeter, J Streeter, Watrous and Welles.*

#### **Account 2020 - Sewer Operating Fund**

*A motion for \$6,726,204 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*Rep. Obrey arrived, 34 members present.*

*Director Schneider responded to numerous questions on several line items. He explained what it was used for and why there was any increase or decrease in that particular account.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$6,427,637 was made by Rep. Marley, seconded by Rep. Hubbard.*

*Rep. Marley stated that the contingency account should not be funded and cited the increase in utilities and fuel account.*

*Rep. Steinfeld stated that things need to be replaced and can not support the lower amount.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$6,076,637 was made by Rep. J. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Conley.*

*Rep. J. Streeter cited the Town's budget problems and the sewer operating fund revenues.*

*Rep. Conley stated the 2015 sewer operating fund balance supports this number.*

*Rep. Marley concurs with the new number.*

*Rep. Casper looks at sewer operation as economic development and to replace parts as necessary. He does not support lower number.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*The vote on moving the question carried 28 in favor 6 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Burgos, DeMatto, Massett, Obrey, Steinford and Wilson.*

*The vote on \$6,076,637 carried 24 in favor 10 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Bauer, Burgos, Casper, Loughlin, Massett, Steinford, Watrous, Welles and Wilson.*

#### **Account 2030 - Solid Waste Fund**

*A motion for \$1,504,364 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Steinford.*

*Responding to numerous questions on disposal fees and the large increase in just 2 years, Director Schneider stated that the Town of Preston bills us \$58.00 a ton for disposal fees.*

*Rep. Conley departed, 33 members present.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Nault, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*The vote on moving the question carried 29 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstention. Opposed: Reps. Newsome, Steinford and Wilson, abstaining: Rep. Adams.*

*The vote on \$1,504,364 carried 32 in favor 1 opposed. Opposed: Rep. Wilson.*

*Rep. Wilson called for a Republican caucus at 8:23 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:39 p.m.*

*Rep. Conley returned, 34 members present.*

#### **Account 6040 - Fleet Reserve Fund**

*A motion for \$1,485,665 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,476,903 was made by Rep. Marley, seconded by Rep. Nault.*

*Rep. Marley stated that this number represents a 5% cut of the Town Council and Town Manager's number.*

*Rep. Conley supports the 5% cut.*

*Rep. Nault supports this cut as many vehicles are not overdue to be replaced.*

*The vote on \$1,476,903 carried 31 in favor, 3 opposed. Opposed: Reps. DeMatto, Massett and Steinford.*

#### **Capital Item - Town-Wide Pavement Management Program**

*A motion for \$79,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Wilson.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Marley, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Rep. Marley stated that this funding is not a necessity at this time.*

*Rep. Wilson asked if this was related to the referendum that was recently passed for road*

*maintenance.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that it was not, but was in preparation for the next assessment of road maintenance.*

*Responding to a question from Rep. McDermott, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that the funds requested were to update the road inventories last completed in 2008.*

*Responding to a question from Rep. Massett, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that all roads identified in this project need some sort of repair.*

*Rep. Conley supports the cut to \$0, She feels this funding can wait another year or two.*

*Rep. Steinfeld asked about the status of Thomas Road.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that it was not identified in this account.*

*The vote on \$0 carried 29 in favor, 5 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Casper, DeMatto, Massett, Steinfeld and Welles.*

#### **Capital Item - Traffic Signal Replacement & Upgrade**

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini.*

*Rep. Massett expressed her concerns about the traffic light on Poquonnock Road at Pequot Housing.*

*Director Schneider stated that it is a 33 year old light and should be upgraded or replaced.*

*The vote on \$0 carried unanimously.*

*Rep. Cini departed, 33 members present.*

#### **Capital Item - Route 1 - Vergennes Court**

*A motion for \$260,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Steinfeld and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Capital Item - Groton Long Point Bridge**

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Nault.*

*Rep. Casper stated that it is an old bridge in need of repair. If anything were to happen to the bridge, Groton Long Point and Mumford Cove would be cut off.*

*Rep. Conley stated that she has been in conversation with Senator's Blumenthal and Murphy's office seeking federal funding.*

*Rep. Pasqualini asked how much money was already spent on this project.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that a figure was not readily available but that the funds requested for this account were to complete the preliminary engineering for the project. He stated that it was in preparation for a FYE 19 Bond Referendum for construction and to serve as the Town's portion of a LOTCIP project.*

*Rep. Obrey suggested the possibility of purchasing the bridge and making it a toll bridge.*

*The vote on \$0 carried 32 in favor, 1 opposed. Opposed: Rep. Casper*

**Capital Item - North Stonington Road Bridge**

*A motion for \$0 was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Burgos.*

*Rep. DeMatto prefers funding of this project possibly next year.*

*Rep. Nault supports \$0 for this Capital Item.*

*Rep. Welles stated that he is very familiar with the bridge and had used it often to avoid congestion, he supports funding of this project.*

*The vote on \$0 carried 32 in favor, 1 opposed. Opposed: Rep. Welles.*

**Capital Item - Lotcip Roadways and Intersections**

*A motion for \$160,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Marley*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program LOTCIP, provides state funds to urbanized area municipal governments in lieu of Federal funds. He continued to say that the funds requested are for design and permitting of the Bridge Street and Kings Highway intersection improvements.*

*The vote on \$160,000 carried unanimously.*

**Capital Item - Culbert Rehabilitation**

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Adams and so voted unanimously.*

**Capital Item - Fishtown Road Improvements**

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Adams and so voted unanimously.*

**Capital Item - Mystic Streetscape - Phase III**

*A motion for \$75,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that this is not a major project but if not approved, we may miss the opportunity for future funding. He continued to say the funding for this project will be 80% Federal High Priority Project grant and 20% matching funds which will come from available State LOCIP funding.*

*Rep. DeMatto acknowledges that this account needs funding, supports full funding.*

*Responding to Rep. Baker, Town Manager Mark Oefinger explained that the amount requested is for the design of the chosen projects. He stated that \$60,000 would be State funded and \$15,000 the taxpayers responsibility.*

*Reps. McDermott and Rep. Welles stated that this supports economic development and support full funding of this account.*

*Rep. Conley withdraws her amended motion for \$0 along with Rep. DeMatto withdrawing her second of the motion.*

*The vote on \$75,000 carried unanimously.*

#### **Capital Item - Replacement Sidewalk Construction**

*A motion for \$100,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Rep. Pasqualini supports number and requests that the Groton Public Works Department do the job.*

*Responding to Rep. Nault, Town Manager Mark Oefinger talked about LOCIP Funding and LOTCIP Funding and explained the difference between them.*

*The vote on \$100,000 carried 32 in favor, 1 abstention. Abstaining: Rep. Parker.*

#### **Capital Item - Town Hall Complex**

*A motion for \$600,000 was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Steinfeld.*

*Rep. DeMatto questioned the decision to renovate Fitch Middle School now, when it had to be closed.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that Fitch Middle School was closed due to lack of need and location. He continued to say that the Town would retain ownership of the building no matter what its use. He added that the worst thing we can do is keep the building vacant.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Marley, seconded by Rep. Nault.*

*Rep. Nault recommended that we wait until next year, when and if the sale of the William Seely School property is official.*

*Rep. Baker asked how the initial proposal of \$100,000 increased to a figure of \$600,000.*

*Public Works Director Gary Schneider acknowledged that in preparation of this year's budget, he submitted a very low estimate for this particular Capital Item. He proceeded to hand out to all RTM members a diagram of the First Floor Plan - Preliminary Code Approach for the Fitch Middle School. Additionally, the diagram included a list of expenditures to bring the building up to code.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$100,00 was made by Rep. Pasqualini, Seconded by Rep. Wilson.*

*Rep. Pasqualini suggested to use a phase by phase approach to get the building up to code.*

*Director Schneider stated that \$100,000 would only cover obtaining a design. He added that the plan was to move Parks & Recreation from the William Seely School to Fitch Middle School.*

*MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE was made by Rep. Neugent, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Rep. Neugent stated that space for recreation programs are needed and would like more information before proceeding.*

*The vote to Lay on the Table failed 12 in favor, 20 opposed, 1 abstention. In favor: Reps. Baker, Bauer, Conley, DeMatto, Marley, Massett, Neugent, OBrey, Parker, Quinn, I Streeter and Wagner. Abstaining: Rep. Deane-Shinbrot.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Marley, seconded by Rep. Garcia.*

*The vote on moving the question carried 25 in favor, 8 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Bauer, Burgos, Deane-Shinbrot, DeMatto, Newsome, Obrey, Steinfeld and Welles.*

*The vote on \$100,000 failed 8 in favor, 25 opposed. In favor: Reps. Bauer, Loughlin, Maher, Nault, Neugent, Parker, Pasqualini and Watrous.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$300,000 was made by Rep. Massett, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Rep. Massett stated that this number was a compromise.*

*Rep. DeMatto stated that she supports this number.*

*Rep. Neugent supports this number and asked about the contractors estimates.*

*Director Schneider confirmed that the contractor's estimates were very close.*

*Rep. McDermott suggested to approve \$0 or full funding of \$600,000. He stated that we should start with this project or wait.*

*Rep. Obrey would like to see the project completed for the children of Groton and she supports full funding.*

*Rep. Bailey supports \$0 until more information is available.*

*Reps. Bauer and Welles support full funding.*

*Rep. J. Streeter stated that revenue from Parks & Recreation could be lost if we wait too long.*

*Responding to questions from Rep. DeMatto, Rep Nault and Rep. Quinn. Director Schneider stated that some Town offices would also be moving into the building, not only Parks & Recreation. He added that if the William Seely School Property does not sell that Parks & Recreation would still be moving to Fitch Middle School. He continued to say that \$300,000 would provide design and some construction, but not a usable building.*

*The vote on 300,000 failed 11 in favor, 22 opposed. In favor: Reps. Adams, Baker, Casper, Conley, DeMatto, Massett, Nault, Newsome, Neugent, Parker and Pasqualini.*

*The vote on \$0 failed 14 in favor, 19 opposed. In favor: Reps. Bailey, Burgos, Conley, Frickman, Hubbard, Loughlin, Marley, McDermott, Nault, Neugent, Pasqualini, Parker, Wagner and Wilson.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$350,000 was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*Rep. Nault supports \$350,000 as it would complete the design work and half the construction. Remainder of construction could be completed next year.*

*Responding to questions from Rep. Marley and Rep. McDermott. Director Schneider stated that Board of Education offices would not be moving into Fitch Middle School with the \$600,000 funding requested. He continued to say that the plan presented from design to completion would take approximately 15-18 months.*

*Rep. Parker stated that its time to get this project started, supports \$350,000.*

*The vote on \$350,000 carried 17 in favor, 16 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Bauer, Deane-Shinbrot, Frickman, Garcia, Maher, McCabe, McDermott, Obrey, Sliker-Hersant,*

*Steinford, I. Streeter, J. Streeter, Watrous, Welles and Wilson.*

*At 10:32 p.m. the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.*

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### **Budget Session - May 5, 2016**

*Moderator Scott Newsome called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.*

*Members Present: Moderator Newsome, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Baker, Rep. Baril, Rep. Burgos, Rep. Casper, Rep. Cini, Rep. Conley, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Evans, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Sliker-Hersant, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Maher, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCabe, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Nault, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Obrey, Rep. Pasqualini Jr, Rep. Quinn, Rep. Steinford, Rep. Watrous and Rep. Welles. Members Absent: Rep. Bauer, Rep. Longino, Rep. Marley, Rep. Parker, Rep. I. Streeter, J. Streeter, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Williams and Rep. Wilson.*

*He stated that 31 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

*The Moderator reported that Reps, I. Streeter, J. Streeter, Swindell, Wagner and Williams notified the Town Clerk of their absence.*

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Michael Graner, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Susan Austin, Board of Education Chairman, Kim Shepardson Watson, Board of Education members, Town Councilor Bonnie Nault, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Town Clerk Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.*

*Rep. Marley arrived, 32 members present.*

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Neugent read the minutes of the meeting held on April 6, 2016 and May 04, 2016. Minutes are on file.*

*Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Neugent, seconded by Rep. Massett and so voted unanimously.*

*Rep. DeMatto asked if the first meeting was recessed or adjourned.*

*Rep. Neugent stated that it was recessed.*

### **Account 1080 - Education Services**

*A motion for \$76,730,239 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Neugent, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Moderator Newsome disclosed that his wife is a BOE employee.*

*Rep. Deane-Shinbrot disclosed that she and her sister are BOE employees.*

*Reps. Baker and Evans disclosed that they are retired BOE employees.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$76,468,239 was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Rep. Pasqualini stated that this number reflects the \$262,000 minimum budget requirement deduction.*

*Rep. Conley called for a Democratic caucus at 7:35 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:17 p.m.*

*Rep. Neugent supports full funding, she stated that there may be fewer students, but there are more students with special needs. She added that we need to keep the quality of our schools.*

*Rep. Frickman supports full funding, he stated that they already cut \$3.1 million. He feels that keeping schools attractive will bring more young families to move to Groton.*

*Rep. Cini supports lower number as she believes the BOE can absorb the cut.*

*Rep. Bailey supports lower number and stated that we need to look for any cuts that are available.*

*Responding to Rep. Nault, Dr. Graner handed out a list of the Groton Public Schools Magnet School Transportation requirements. The listing showed what Magnet Schools transportation is required and which schools have no transportation provided. The list also showed which Magnet Schools they get reimbursed for the transportation they provide.*

*Responding to Rep. Conley, Dr. Graner stated that only special education students are provided transportation for pre-k programs.*

*Rep. Obrey stated that the biggest drive for economic development is the school district. She supports full funding.*

*Rep. DeMatto stated that the BOE did an outstanding job with their budget. She supports full funding but is concerned about possible educational cost-sharing cuts.*

*Moderator Newsome asked for clarification on the possible educational cost-sharing cuts.*

*Town Manager confirmed that from what we know now, the taxpayer would be responsible for any ECS cuts. He continued to say that there is possible legislation pending on this matter. He added that as far as computing the minimum budget requirement number, the \$262,000 is all that is authorized at this time.*

*Rep. Nault supports amended number. He stated that the \$262,000 is only a .0034% cut from their budget and everyone needs to give on this budget.*

*Dr. Graner handed out a listing of the total budget reductions and savings which totaled \$3,130,699 and included \$600,000 returned to the Town from FY16 funds. He stated that the BOE worked very hard on this budget and expressed their desire to work with the Town.*

*Rep. Steinford voiced her concerns on impact aide and military housing.*

*Dr. Graner stated that he is in conversation with Congressman Courtney on this issue. He added that this is a problem in every state where there are military bases.*

*Rep. Conley said that she really appreciates the relationship between the BOE and the Town. She added that submitting a zero increase in their budget and returning \$600,000 was to be commended. She voiced her concerns over the possible education cost sharing cuts and supports the amended number.*

*Responding to Rep. Frickman, Dr. Graner stated that special education costs are 22% of the budget for 17% of the students.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Hubbard.*

*The vote on moving the question carried 27 in favor, 5 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Deane-Shinbrot, Newsome, Obrey, Steinfeld and Welles.*

*The vote on \$76,468,239 carried 20 in favor, 11 opposed. 1 Abstention. Opposed: Reps. Deane-Shinbrot, DeMatto, Evans, Frickman, Garcia, Maher, Massett, Neugent, Obrey, Quinn and Welles. Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.*

**Capital Item - Catherine Kolnaski**

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Neugent, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*The vote on \$0 carried 31 in favor, 1 opposed. Opposed: Rep. Obrey.*

**Capital Item - Mary Morrisson**

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Neugent, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.*

**Capital Item - Northeast Academy**

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Neugent, seconded by Rep. Garcia.*

*Responding to Rep. Frickman, Dr. Graner stated that these security system updates could wait until next year.*

*The vote on \$0 carried unanimously.*

*Rep. Cini departed, 31 members present.*

**FINANCE COMMITTEE ( continued )**

**Account 1005 - Town Clerk**

*A motion for \$312,817 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Steinfeld.*

*Rep. Obrey stated that this account appears to be self funding and supports full funding as requested.*

*Rep. Nault asked about the increase in operating expenses in two years. Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher explained that funding had been appropriated for the printing and codification of the Town Zoning Regulations. She stated that the Town Manager requested all Departments to reduce expenditures for the FYE 2016 budget to make up for loss of revenue.*

*Rep. Massett mentioned that the staff person at the Town Council meetings was eliminated for a reduction in the budget.*

*Rep. Parker arrived, 32 members present.*

*Rep. McDermott stated that with this budget, people have to understand some services may be eliminated. He supports the 5% cut.*

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher explained that non essential services may have to be eliminated with further reductions. She stated some of those services to be Notary Public and sporting licensing.*

*Rep. Merritt stated that he does not support the 5% cut across the board, each department should be looked at individually.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$329,282 was made by Rep. Obrey, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*Rep. Obrey stated that this department pays for itself and should be fully funded.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$327,167 was made by Rep. Watrous, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*Rep. Watrous stated that this number removes the computer replacement amount that was deducted from all departments. She also disclosed that she is a former employee of the Town Clerk's office.*

*Rep. Conley supports the 5% cut. She added that some services may need to be eliminated.*

*Rep. Steinfeld stated that not all departments have a 5% cut and does not support a cut for this department.*

*Rep. Neugent mentioned that not all Town Council meetings are televised and that having staff members do the minutes in the office from GMTV would not be possible.*

*The vote on \$327,167 failed 7 in favor, 25 opposed. In favor: Reps. Baker, Baril, Casper, Merritt, Steinfeld, Welles and Watrous.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$323,167 was made by Rep. DeMatto, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*Rep. DeMatto stated that this was the Town Council approved number.*

*A recess was called at 9:38 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:45 p.m.*

*Rep. Garcia departed, 31 members present.*

*The vote on \$323,167 failed 13 in favor, 18 opposed. In favor: Reps. Baker, Baril, Burgos, Casper, DeMatto, Deane-Shinbrot, Evans, Massett, Merritt, Parker, Steinfeld, Watrous and Welles.*

*The vote on \$329,282 failed 9 in favor, 22 opposed. In favor: Reps. Baril, Burgos, DeMatto, Massett, Merritt, Obrey, Steinfeld, Watrous and Welles.*

*The vote on \$312,817 carried 20 in favor, 11 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Baker, Baril, Burgos, Deane-Shinbrot, DeMatto, Massett, Merritt, Newsome, Steinfeld, Watrous and Welles.*

#### **Account 1006 - Legal Services**

*A motion for \$425,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*Rep. Marley stated the amount the Town pays for legal services is high compared to other Towns.*

*Rep. Conley confirmed that the Town Attorney's legal opinions are good but expensive.*

*Rep. Massett announced that the Town Council just approved a \$197,000 transfer to legal services for the FYE 2016 fourth quarter. Additionally, she asked if other attorneys are hired by the Town in addition to the Town attorney.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger acknowledged that other attorneys are sometimes hired in addition to the Town attorney.*

*Rep Neugent supports the number and would like to see the legal contract go out to competitive bid.*

The vote on \$425,000 carried 29 in favor, 1 oppose, 1 abstention. Opposed: Rep. Massett.  
Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.

At 10:00 p.m. the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

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### **Budget Session - Monday May 9, 2016**

Moderator Scott Newsome called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Members Present: Moderator Newsome, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Baker, Rep. Baril, Rep. Burgos, Rep. Casper, Rep. Cini, Rep. Conley, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Evans, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Sliker-Hersant, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Maher, Rep. Marley, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCabe, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Nault, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Obrey, Rep. Quinn, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. I. Streeter, Rep. J. Streeter, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous and Rep. Wilson.

Members Absent: Rep. Bauer, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Longino, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Welles and Rep. Williams.

He stated that 33 members were present and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Swindell and Williams notified the Town Clerk of their absence.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Planning & Development Director Jon Reiner, Manager of Economic Development Paige Bronk, Groton Public Library Director Betty Anne Reiter, Mystic-Noank Library Director Christine Johnson, Mystic-Noank Library Board of Trustees President Rhona Heyl, Bill Memorial Library Director Wendy Connal, Bill Memorial Library Treasurer Robert Zuliana, Groton Long Point Association President Michael Flynn, Groton Long Point Police Chief Jeffrey Nixon, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Town Clerk Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE ( continued )**

#### **Account 10910 - Groton Long Point Police**

A motion for \$237,500 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Conley.

Responding to Rep. Neugent, Moderator Newsome confirmed that the Town Council approved number was \$250,000.

Mike Flynn, President of the Groton Long Point Association asked the RTM to support full funding of this account.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$250,000 was made by Rep. DeMatto, Seconded by Rep. Casper.

Rep. Dematto stated that this was the Town Council approved number and that the RTM has funded that same amount for years.

Responding to Rep. Massett , GLP Chief of Police Jeffrey Nixon stated that extra coverage for Town events and part time employees hours would be affected by any cuts to this account.

Reps. Bauer, Parker and Welles arrived, 36 members present.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$243,750 was made by Rep. Nault, seconded by Rep. Adams.

Rep. Nault stated that this is a 2.5% cut and that no account should be immune from these budget cuts.

The vote for \$243,750 failed 14 in favor, 20 opposed, 2 abstentions. In favor: Reps. Adams, Baker, Baril, Burgos, Cini, Conley, Evans, Marley, Merritt, Nault, Newsome, Neugent, Slieker-Hersant and Watrous. Abstaining: Reps. Parker and Quinn.

The vote on \$250,000 failed 15 in favor, 19 opposed, 2 abstentions. In favor: Reps. Bauer, Casper, DeMatto, Frickman, Garcia, Hubbard, Massett, Merritt, Nault, Parker, Steinfeld, I. Streeter, J. Streeter, Watrous and Welles. Abstaining: Reps. Maher and Quinn.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$248,000 was made by Rep. J. Streeter, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.

Rep. McDermott stated that no accounts should be exempt from cuts in this years budget.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$245,000 was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Evans.

Rep. Conley stated that this was a compromise number.

The vote on \$245,000 carried 24 in favor, 10 opposed, 2 abstentions. Opposed: Reps. Deane-Shinbrot, Frickman, Garcia, Hubbard, Loughlin, Marley, McDermott, Merritt, Steinfeld and I. Streeter. Abstaining: Reps. Bailey and Quinn.

#### **Account 10911 - Groton Long Point Highway Maintenance**

A motion for \$162,500 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Garcia.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$154,375 was made by Rep. Marley, seconded by Rep. Hubbard.

Discussion followed, questioning if the minutes reflected the amended number of \$154,375.

A recess was called at 7:40 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:47 p.m.

Responding to Rep. Massett, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher confirmed that all RTM regular meeting and committee meeting minutes are available in the Town Clerk's office.

The vote on \$154,375 carried 31 in favor, 1 opposed, 4 abstentions. Opposed: Rep. Steinfeld. Abstaining: Reps. DeMatto, Massett, I. Streeter and J. Streeter.

#### **Account 10912 - Groton Long Point Street Lighting**

A motion for \$13,492 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Garcia and so voted unanimously.

**Total for Account 1091 - Groton Long Point : \$412,867**

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Chairman Conley read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 18, 2016. Minutes are on file.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Frickman and so voted unanimously.

Chairman Conley read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 21, 2016. Minutes are on file.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Marley.

*Rep. Obrey stated that she would like to see more fundraising events rather than more volunteers that was stated in the minutes.*

*Motion was made to approve the minutes as amended by Rep. Loughlin, seconded by Rep. Neugent and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 1063 - Groton Public Library**

*A motion for \$1,650,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. J. Streeter.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,606,819 was made by Rep. Marley, seconded by Rep. Nault.*

*Rep. Marley stated this number is a 5% deduction of their requested amount. He added that putting on an addition to the Library at this time is not fiscally responsible.*

*Rep. Loughlin stated that the statistics shown in this years budget book are outstanding. He supports full funding.*

*Rep. J. Streeter informed the RTM that the addition Rep. Marley was referring to was last years project and was paid for by grants and fundraising. He supports full funding.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,676,954 was made by Rep. Baker, seconded by Rep. I. Streeter.*

*Rep. Baker stated that this number was the Town Council approved number.*

*Responding to Rep. I. Streeter, Director Reiter stated that any cuts could result in reduced hours to part time employees and possibly closing on Sundays.*

*Rep. Bailey reminded the RTM that any increases in accounts could possibly create additional taxes for Groton residents.*

*Rep Casper noted that the Library is a well run institution, has great participation and supports full funding.*

*Rep. Conley agrees that the Library is a wonderful resource for Groton. She reminded the RTM that the Education Department and Police are also good but their accounts have been cut. Cuts are necessary to avoid a tax increase.*

*Reps. Bauer, DeMatto and Watrous stated that they support the Town Council approved number.*

*Reps. Obrey and Steinford stated that the Library is needed by all ages and that the Library is an extension of education. They support the Town Council approved number.*

*Rep. Bailey noted that we have 3 Libraries in Town.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Loughlin, seconded by Rep. Frickman.*

*The vote on moving the question carried 32 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstention. Opposed: Reps. DeMatto, Newsome and Steinford. Abstained: Rep. Casper.*

*The vote on \$1,676,954 failed 17 in favor, 18 opposed, 1 abstention. In favor: Reps. Baker, Baril, Bauer, Casper, DeMatto, Garcia, Massett, McCabe, Merritt, Neugent, Obrey, Parker, Steinford, I. Streeter, J. Streeter, Watrous and Welles. Abstaining: Rep. Adams.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,663,500 was made by Rep. Neugent, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Rep. Neugent stated that this was a compromise number between the Town Council approved number and the RTM Committee approved number.*

*Rep. Conley observed that the computers in the Library are not always used for educational purposes. She stated that video games and social media websites appeared to be popular websites.*

*Director Reiter stated that are 50 computers for public use and that if people are waiting , patrons who have been using the computer for an extended period of time will be asked to go to the end of the line if they wish to continue.*

*The vote on \$1,663,500 failed 18 in favor, 18 opposed. In favor: Reps. Adams, Baker, Baril, Casper, DeMatto, Garcia, Maher, Massett, McCabe, Merritt, Neugent, Obrey, Parker, Steinford, I. Streeter, J. Streeter, Watrous and Welles.*

*The vote on \$1,606, 819 failed 4 in favor 32 opposed. In favor: Reps. Bailey, Marley, Merritt and Nault.*

*The vote on \$1,650,000 carried 34 in favor, 2 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Baker and Marley.*

#### **Account 3310 - Connecticard Fund**

*A motion for \$65,637 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Garcia.*

*Rep. Cini departed, 35 members present.*

*In response to Rep. Massett, Rep. Conley stated that the reduced number was due to the computer replacement reduction to all accounts.*

*The vote on \$65,637 carried 34 in favor, 1 abstention. Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.*

#### **Account 10650 - Mystic & Noank Library**

*A motion for \$188,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Garcia.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$183,394 was made by Rep. Nault, seconded by Rep. Maher.*

*Rep. Conley and Rep. Sliker-Hersant stated that they support the amended number.*

*Rep. Nault stated that this number reflects the same percentage of cut as the Groton Library.*

*Rep. Loughlin believes that the Town of Stonington has not contributed its fair share to the Library.*

*Responding to Rep. Casper, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that these Libraries are not owned by the Town and these funds are contributions.*

*Reps. Baker, Bauer and Obrey stated that they support the Town Council and RTM Committee approved number.*

*Responding to Rep. Frickman, Director Christine Johnson stated that there are no cuts planned at this time if their budget is reduced.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$178,600 was made by Rep. Loughlin, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*Rep. Loughlin stated that this number reflects a 5% reduction.*

*Rep. Wilson commented on the number of positive comments he has received on what the RTM is trying to do with this budget. We need to cut wherever we can.*

*Rep. McDermott stated that all accounts should reflect a similiar cut in their account.*

*The vote on \$178,600 failed 7 in favor, 28 opposed. In favor: Reps. Bailey, Conley, Deane-Shinbrot, Hubbard, Loughlin, Nault and Wilson.*

*The vote on \$183,394 carried 26 in favor, 9 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Baker, Bauer, Burgos, Casper, Massett, Merritt, Obrey, Steinfeld and Welles.*

#### **Account 10651 - Bill Memorial Library**

*A motion for \$25,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Garcia.*

*Reps. Bauer and McCabe stated that they support full funding for this account.*

*Responding to Rep. Wilson, Bill Memorial Library Treasurer, Robert Zuliana stated that the request for an additional \$5,000 was due to several maintenance issues the Library recently experienced.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$20,000 was made by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*Rep. Wilson stated this number reflects a 0% increase from prior years.*

*Rep. Marley asked if the Library could possibly do some fundraising events to make up for the \$5,000 cut.*

*Rep. Nault stated that he supports the amended number.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$30,000 was made by Rep. Loughlin.*

*Chairman Conley stated that amount could not be recognized because it exceeded the Town Manager's approved number.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$23,000 was made by Rep. Neugent, seconded by Rep. Baril.*

*Rep. Neugent stated that this was a compromise number.*

*Rep. McDermott stated that he supports the second amended number.*

*The vote on \$23,000 carried 23 in favor, 12 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Baker, Bauer, Deane-Shinbrot, Frickman, Hubbard, Loughlin, Marley, Massett, Obrey, Steinfeld and Welles.*

#### **Account 1046 - Planning & Development Services**

*A motion for \$1,417,364 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Director Reiner addressed the RTM and stated that he understands that they are trying to prevent a tax increase for this year. He added that his department is trying to prevent tax increases for the future.*

*Responding to Moderator Newsome, Director Reiner confirmed that this amount includes the cost for zoning changes.*

*Responding to Rep. Nault, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that in preparation of this year's budget he had to initiate cuts to several accounts or it would result in a larger tax increase. He added that if not for the revenue shortfalls, he would not have cut any funding to Planning & Development Services.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,319,725 was made by Rep. Marley, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Rep. Marley stated that this is the Town Manager's approved number.*

*Rep. Obrey encouraged the RTM members to support Town Council and RTM Committee approved number.*

*Rep. Frickman stated that this is one area that needs our support. He supports full funding.*

*Rep. Neugent cited that we are already seeing results. She supports full funding.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,402,364 was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Quinn.*

*Rep. Conley stated that this number is still an increase and the zoning rewrite and critical projects can still be completed.*

*Rep. McDermott acknowledged that the main problem is revenue shortfall. He continued to say that we need to give this department a chance. He supports second amended number.*

*Responding to Rep. Wilson, Director Reiner stated the Planner 1 position did not previously exist. He added that before it was filled, the job description had changed with additional responsibilities.*

*Rep. Marley stated that a \$290,000 increase from FYE 2015 is too much.*

*Rep. Obrey declared that economic development is Groton's future and urged the RTM to support the Town Council and RTM Committee approved number.*

*Rep. Bauer supports full funding of this account.*

*Rep. Loughlin supports the Town Manager's approved number.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that if not for having to balance the budget he would have given Planning & Development Services an increase. He added that he supports the Town Council and RTM Committee approved number.*

*Rep. Parker stated that this account has had an increase in funding for the past couple of years and the Town has seen little results for its investment.*

*Responding to Rep. Baker and Rep. Conley, Director Reiner discussed the zoning rewrite and its cost. He added that if the rewrite had to be done in bits and pieces it would take more time. He continued to say that it could be completed with the second amended number.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Marley, seconded by Rep. Garcia.*

*The vote on moving the question failed 19 in favor, 16 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Adams, Bailey,*

*Bauer, Burgos, Deane-Shinbrot, DeMatto, Frickman, Hubbard, Massett, Neugent, Newsome, Obrey, Parker, Steinford, Welles and Wilson. Moving the question requires a two-thirds vote.*

*The vote on \$1,402,364 failed 11 in favor, 24 opposed. In favor: Reps. Adams, Conley, Loughlin, Maher, Marley, McDermott, Nault, Newsome, Wagner, Watrous and Wilson.*

*The vote on \$1,319,725 failed 5 in favor 30 opposed. In favor: Reps. Bailey, Hubbard, Marley, Parker and Wilson.*

*The vote on \$1,417,364 carried 30 in favor, 4 opposed, 1 abstention. Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Hubbard, Marley, Parker. Abstaining: Rep. Steinford.*

*Rep. McDermott stated that he is looking forward to see results from this funding.*

*Rep. Garcia departed, 34 members present.*

#### **Capital Item - Economic Assistance Fund**

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Capital Item - Open Space Acquisition**

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Marley and so voted unanimously.*

*Rep. Marley departed, 33 members present.*

#### **Capital Item - Marketing Excess Town Property**

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Parker.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$15,000 was made by Rep. Obrey, seconded by Rep. Neugent.*

*Rep. Obrey stated that selling these properties is vital to economic development and urged the RTM to support this Capital Item.*

*Director Reiner stated that the plan was to request \$60,000 over a four year period for this Capital Item and to sell the buildings as is.*

*Rep. Nault suggested that Director Reiner find the money in his budget that was just approved.*

*The vote on \$15,000 carried 19 in favor, 14 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Adams, Bailey, Conley, Deane-Shinbrot, Evans, Frickman, Loughlin, Maher, McDermott, Nault, Parker, Sliker-Hersant, Wagner and Wilson.*

*At 10:25 p.m. the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 11 at 7:30 p.m.*

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#### **Budget Session - Wednesday, May 11, 2016**

*Moderator Scott Newsome called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m.*

*Members Present: Moderator Newsome, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Baker, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Burgos, Rep. Casper, Rep. Cini, Rep. Conley, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Evans, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Sliker-Hersant, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Maher, Rep. Marley, Rep. McCabe, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Nault, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Obrey, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini, Rep. Quinn, Rep. Steinford, Rep. I. Streeter, Rep. J. Streeter, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Welles and Rep. Wilson.*

*Members Absent: Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Longino, Rep. Massett, Rep. Swindell, Rep.*

*Wagner and Rep. Williams.*

*He stated that 34 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

*The Moderator reported that Reps. DeMatto, Hubbard, Massett, Swindell, Wagner and Williams notified the Town Clerk of their absence.*

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Human Services Director Marge Fondulas, Visiting Nurses Association President Mary Lenzini, LedgeLight Health District Director Stephen Mansfield, Probate Judge Nicholas Kepple, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Town Clerk Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.*

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE ( continued )**

*Chairman Conley read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 18, 2016. Minutes are on file.*

*Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Wilson and so voted unanimously.*

*Chairman Conley read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 21, 2016. Minutes are on file.*

*Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Marley and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 1051 - Human Services**

*A motion for \$586,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Garcia.*

*Rep. Cini departed, 33 members present.*

*Responding to Rep. Neugent, VNA President Mary Lenzini stated that this reduction would come from operations and would not affect staffing.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$577,546 was made by Rep. Nault, seconded by Rep. Conley.*

*Rep. Nault stated that this number is 2.5% cut where the current number is only a 1% cut. He added that in this budget, cuts need to be more than 1%.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$562,737 was made by Rep. Loughlin, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*Rep. Loughlin stated that this number was a 5% cut, in line with what other accounts have had.*

*Responding to numerous questions, VNA President Mary Lenzini stated that with a 2.5% cut, hours would be cut, and with a 5% cut a position would be eliminated. She stated a 5% cut would create a waiting list for lack of personnel. She continued to say that there are other outside agencies available but there are costs involved, where the VNA services are free. She added that they have a list of counseling agencies for referring individuals depending on the situation. She noted that the Subase has the Fleet and Family Services Department but does not believe they offer any kind of counseling. She reported that they have a constant request for help with food and have restrictions in place depending on income and number of dependents.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Bailey, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*The vote on moving the question carried 29 in favor, 4 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Newsome, Obrey,*

*Parker and Welles.*

*The vote on \$562,737 failed 15 in favor, 18 opposed. In favor, Reps. Bailey, Conley, Deane-Shinbrot, Evans, Frickman, Loughlin, Marley, McCabe, McDermott, Nault, Newsome, Pasqualini, Quinn, Sliker-Hersant and Wilson.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$570,000 was made by Rep. Loughlin, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*Rep. Loughlin stated that this was a compromise number.*

*Rep. Parker commented that we are investing in other accounts and we need to invest in our children.*

*Responding to Reps. Conley and Quinn, President Lenzini stated that they service all people with or without insurance and if they do have insurance they are not charged.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Bailey.*

*Moderator Newsome did not recognize Rep. Bailey's motion as other members had questions for President Lenzini.*

*Responding to Rep. Frickman, President Lenzini stated that municipalities offer free services but starting to collect insurance from those who have it, may be something to consider.*

*The vote on \$570,000 failed 15 in favor, 18 opposed. In favor: Reps. Bailey, Conley, Deane-Shinbrot, Evans, Frickman, Loughlin, Marley, McCabe, McDermott, Nault, Newsome, Pasqualini, Quinn, Sliker-Hersant and Wilson.*

*The vote on \$577,546 carried 27 in favor, 6 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Baker, Baril, Merritt, Steinfeld, J. Streeter and Welles.*

**Account 7320 - Human Serv Asst Fund**

*A motion for \$35,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Adams and so voted unanimously.*

**Account 1007 - Regional Agencies**

**Account 10070 - SE CT Council of Governments ( SCCOG )**

*A motion for \$16,349 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Wilson and so voted unanimously.*

**Account 10071 SE CT Enterprise Region ( SECTER )**

*A motion for \$14,041 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Parker and so voted unanimously.*

**Account 10072 - SEAT**

*A motion for \$88,912 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Wilson.*

*Responding to Rep. Obrey, Town Manager stated that SEAT service is funded by State grants, passenger fares and local subsidy. He added for every \$1.00 provided by the Town the State provides \$9.00. He quoted that we would lose \$45,000 if we cut \$5,000.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$93,592 was made by Rep. Obrey, seconded by Rep. J. Streeter.*

*Rep. Obrey stated that this was the Town Council approved number.*

Responding to Rep. Pasqualini, Town Manager Mark Oefinger explained that the SEAT board has been examining the local match allocation among all of its members, as the old allocation had not been examined or adjusted for some time to account for changes in SEAT service and funding. Consultants Nelson-Nygaard recommended a formula based upon service hours and miles received by each town. Because SEAT needed to submit its budget, the board developed a one-time compromise that would freeze the larger town's share. There is no increase from last year's share of \$93,592. He added that this action gives the board more time to examine other allocation formulas to address the complex issues and achieve a formula that all members perceive as fair, equitable and easily explained.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Loughlin.

Moderator Newsome did not recognize Rep. Loughlin's motion as other RTM members had questions.

Responding to Rep. Gilly, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that the Town is a Charter Member of SEAT and if the dues are not paid, there would be no service.

Rep. McDermott stated that this is not a typical account and should support the Town Manager's number.

The vote on \$93,592 carried 29 in favor, 4 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Frickman, Marley, Nault and Pasqualini.

#### **Account 10073 - SE CT Probate Court**

A motion for \$13,433 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Adams and so voted unanimously.

Rep. Baker and Marley departed, 31 members present.

#### **Total for Account 1007 - Regional Agencies: \$137,415**

#### **Account 1054 - Health/Service/Cultural Agencies**

##### **Account 10540 - Ledge Light Health District**

A motion for \$292,818 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.

##### **Account 10541 - VNA ( School Health )**

A motion for \$1,202,326 was made by Moderator Newsome, seconded by Rep. Burgos.

Moderator Newsome stated that this was the Town Manager's number.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,177,730 was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey.

Rep. Conley stated that this number supports full funding for all schools without reducing services.

President Lenzini announced that the Board of Education decides where our services are needed and that they charge for their services by the hour.

Rep. Marley returned, 32 members present.

Responding to Reps. Frickman and Pasqualini. President Lenzini stated that nurses are not required for field trips and that health insurance is not collected for any of their services.

Rep. Nault asked about the \$62,470 increase from 2015 - 2017.

*President Lenzini stated that this was due to insurance costs increases and a 2% increase in union salaries*

*Responding to Rep. Steinfeld, President Lenzini stated that nurses are at the schools 15 minutes before school starts and 5 minutes after school is closed.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that the Town Council had initially tabled this account but then approved full funding.*

*The vote on \$1,177,730 carried 20 in favor, 12 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Adams, Baril, Bauer, Burgos, Gilly, Merritt, Neugent, Obrey, Parker, Steinfeld, I. Streeter and Welles.*

**Account 10542 - VNA ( Health Promo )**

*A motion for \$42,590 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Responding to Rep. McDermott, President Lenzini stated that these funds are used for screening clinics, health fairs, health education and immunization clinics.*

*In response to Rep. Neugent, President Lenzini acknowledged that services have declined slightly because of the affordable care act. She added that most clients are on medicare without additional insurance.*

*Rep. Garcia departed, 31 members present.*

*The vote on \$42,590 carried unanimously.*

**Account 10544 - Housing Authority**

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*Responding to Rep. Bauer, Rep. Conley stated that this account was zeroed out due to the Housing Authority paying it's sewer fees directly to the Sewer Authority.*

*The vote on \$0 carried unanimously.*

**Account 10545 - Service Agencies**

*Meals on Wheels*

*A motion for \$19,914 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Marley and so voted unanimously.*

*Community Health Center, Inc.*

*A motion for \$5,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Parker and so voted unanimously.*

*New London Homeless Hospitality Center Inc.*

*A motion for \$7,500 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Marley and so voted unanimously.*

*SCAAD*

*A motion for \$1,884 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*The vote on \$1,884 carried 29 in favor, 2 opposed - Reps. Parker and Welles.*

*Safe Futures Inc.*

*A motion for \$10,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Parker and so voted unanimously.*

*Connecticut Legal Services*

*A motion for \$8,157 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

*United Community and Family Services, Inc. - Dental Health Services*

*A motion for \$2,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

*United Community and Family Services, Inc. - Behavioral Health Services*

*A motion for \$4,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Parker and so voted unanimously.*

*Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Connecticut*

*A motion for \$1,270 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

*Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality Inc.*

*A motion for \$7,500 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Marley, seconded by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot.*

*Rep. Marley stated that Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality Inc. has been very successful in fundraising and that this account should be zeroed out for this year.*

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher, a board member of MASH, gave a brief overview of the workings of the organization.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$5,000 was made by Rep. Obrey, seconded by Rep. Steinfeld.*

*Rep. Obrey stated that this was a compromise number.*

*Rep. Gilly confirmed that the Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality Inc. website includes all the organizations financial statements for the past several years.*

*The vote on \$5,000 carried 19 in favor, 10 opposed - Reps. Adams, Bauer, Casper, Deane-Shinbrot, Evans, Gilly, Loughlin, Merritt, Neugent and Welles. 2 Abstentions - Reps. Conley and McDermott.*

*Union Baptist Church - Groton Community Meals*

*A motion for \$425 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Parker and so voted unanimously.*

**Account 10546 - Cultural Agencies**

*Eastern Connecticut Symphony*

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*The vote for \$0 carried 29 in favor 1 opposed - Rep. Burgos, 1 abstention - Rep. Adams.*

*Noank Mystic Community Band*

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*The vote on \$0 carried 30 in favor, 1 opposed - Rep. Obrey.*

**Account 10547 - Marine Sewage Disposal**

*A motion for \$19,980 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Parker and so voted unanimously.*

**Total for Account 1054 - Health/Service/Cultural Agencies: \$1,598,268**

*At 10:18 p.m. the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.*

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**Budget Session - Monday, May 16, 2016**

*Moderator Scott Newsome called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.*

*Members Present: Moderator Newsome, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Conley, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Evans, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCabe, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Nault, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Obrey, Rep. Sliker-Hersant, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. I. Streeter, Rep. J. Streeter, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Welles and Rep. Wilson.*  
*Members Absent.: Rep. Baker, Rep. Burgos, Rep. Casper, Rep. Cini, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Longino, Rep. Maher, Rep. Marley, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini, Rep. Quinn, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Wagner and Rep. Williams.*

*He stated that 23 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

*The Moderator reported that Reps, Casper, Marley, Parker, Swindell and Williams notified the Town Clerk of their absence.*

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Human Resources Director Robert Zagami, Finance Director Cindy Landry, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, Parks & Recreation Director Mark Berry, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Town Clerk Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.*

**FINANCE COMMITTEE - ( continued )****Account 1010 - Executive Management**

*A motion for \$311,560 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Wilson.*

*Responding to Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Conley stated that the Assistant Town Manager position was eliminated from this account.*

*Responding to Rep. Massett, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that the Town would benefit tremendously from an Assistant Town Manager but that we need better economic news before it could be filled.*

*Rep. Nault stated that the present Town Manager has never had a Assistant and that the funding*

*for that position has been used for other needs with the Town Councils approval.*

*Reps. Burgos and Frickman arrived, 25 members present.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$303,771 was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Wilson.*

*Rep. Conley stated that this is an additional reduction of 2.5% that eliminates incentive payouts.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$366,245 was made by Rep. J. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*Rep. J. Streeter stated that there was an Assistant to the Town Manager 5 years ago and he feels one is needed now. He added that the purpose of the RTM is to do what is best for the Town.*

*Responding to Reps. DeMatto and Neugent, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that the Town Council approved transfers from the funded position to pay for numerous events, including the USS Groton, Heritage Park and consulting fees. He continued to say that the second amended number would allow an Assistant Town Manager to be on board for part of the year.*

*The vote on \$366,245 failed 7 in favor, 18 opposed. In favor: Reps. Baril, DeMatto, Massett, I. Streeter, J. Streeter, Watrous and Welles.*

*The vote on \$303,771 failed 10 in favor, 15 opposed. In favor: Reps. Bailey, Conley, Deane-Shinbrot, Evans, Loughlin, McCabe, McDermott, Nault, Sliker-Hersant and Wilson.*

*Rep. Quinn arrived, 26 members present.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$341,560 was made by Rep. Obrey, seconded by Rep. J. Streeter.*

*Rep. Obrey stated this number could fund an Assistant Town Manager for part of the year.*

*The vote on \$341,560 failed 10 in favor, 16 opposed. In favor: Rep. Baril, Bauer, DeMatto, Massett, Obrey, Steinfeld, I. Streeter, J. Streeter, Watrous and Welles.*

*The vote on \$311,560 carried 19 in favor, 7 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Baril, DeMatto, Massett, Obrey, Steinfeld, J. Streeter and Watrous.*

#### **Account 1012 - Human Resources**

*A motion for \$313,181 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Responding to Rep. Neugent, Rep. Conley stated that this number reflects a 5% cut.*

*Human Resources Director Robert Zagami stated that each department should be looked at individually and that a 5% cut across the board is not appropriate for all departments. He added that his department is very costs conscious and has already made significant cuts to their budget. He stated that by changing vendors for Health Insurance his department saved the Town \$225,000 and that they are currently preparing for numerous union contract negotiations, making sure that they are fair for the employees and the municipality.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$328,591 was made by Rep. DeMatto, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Rep. DeMatto stated that this is the Town Council approved number.*

*Rep. Nault departed, 25 members present.*

*Rep. Conley made a point of order as to the decorum of the meeting and asked guests to adhere to it.*

*Rep. Quinn noted that cutting the budget was not easy. She added that with a 7 million dollar deficit, the RTM took it very seriously.*

*The vote on \$328,591 failed 11 in favor, 14 opposed. In favor: Reps. Adams, Baril, Bauer, Burgos, DeMatto, Massett, Steinford, I. Streeter, J. Streeter, Watrous and Welles.*

*The vote on \$313,181 carried 16 in favor, 9 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Baril, Burgos, DeMatto, Massett, Obrey, Steinford, I. Streeter, J. Streeter and Watrous.*

#### **Account 1013 - Finance Administration**

*\* See meeting minutes of May 19th for final count on Account 1013 -Finance Administration.*

*A motion for \$1,348,514 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Responding to Rep. I. Streeter, Finance Director Cindy Landry stated that a 5% cut to their budget would cause personnel cuts and would delay the current revaluation in progress.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,393,797 was made by Rep. Neugent, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Rep. Neugent stated that this was a compromise number.*

*Rep. Nault returned, 26 members present.*

*Responding to numerous questions, Finance Director Cindy Landry explained that the Budget Analyst & Coordinator position in the proposed budget would be a promotion from a existing position and an increase to 40 hours per week. She talked about the online bill pay services available, and confirmed that there is an extra fee payable to your provider for that service. She added that if the Town were to absorb those fees it would increase the budget. She acknowledged that many patrons want a paid receipt in hand and pay their taxes in person. She mentioned that the revaluation is ongoing and would be completed as planned as long as their staff remains intact.*

*The vote \$1,393,797 carried 14 in favor, 11 opposed. 1 abstention. Opposed: Reps. Adams, Baril, Burgos, DeMatto, Massett, Neugent, Obrey, Steinford, I. Streeter, J. Streeter and Welles. Abstaining: Rep. Watrous.*

#### **Account 1070 - Insurance and Claims**

*A motion for \$578,485 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Responding to Rep. Massett, Human Resources Director Robert Zagami stated that if additional funds were needed for unemployment compensation, they would come from other accounts.*

*The vote on \$578,485 carried unanimously.*

#### **Account 1071 - Self Funded Plans**

*A motion for \$7,563,884 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 2120 - Revaluation Fund**

*A motion for \$180,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Responding to Rep. McDermott, Finance Director Cindy Landry confirmed that revaluations are paid out over two fiscal years.*

*Rep. Nault noted that the revaluations are mandated by the State of Connecticut.*

*The vote for \$180,000 carried unanimously.*

*A recess was called at 8:20 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:31 p.m.*

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE ( continued )**

##### **Capital Item - Leased Buildings**

*A motion for \$35,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

##### **Capital Item - LED Streetlights**

*A motion for \$465,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Responding to Rep. McDermott, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that this project involves the replacement of approximately 1400 Town-owned cobra head street lights, 42 decorative lights in Mystic and a number of lights in the parking lots of Town-owned buildings which will done in stages working with CLP and Groton Utilities.*

*Responding to numerous questions, Public Works Director Gary Schneider stated that the Town would finance the cost, using the energy savings to pay for it. He added that the Town will be eligible for estimated rebates of \$148,000 from the utility company. He announced that a decision would be made on this project by October, 2016. He explained that these lights use 50-75% less energy for the same amount of light. He acknowledged that this project could wait but the Town should start energy savings as soon as possible. The project could be completed 30-60 days after approval.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Frickman, seconded by Rep. McCabe.*

*Rep. Frickman stated that this is not the year to do it.*

*Rep. McDermott proposed that this is the time to start the process.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger commented that cutting this project will not save any money. He added that the sooner we do it, the sooner we start saving.*

*Rep. Frickman's motion to amend to \$0 was withdrawn.*

*The vote on \$465,000 carried unanimously.*

##### **Capital Item - Sewer Line Infrastructure Repair**

*A motion for \$51,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Steinfeld and so voted unanimously.*

##### **Capital Item - Pump Stations**

*A motion for \$549,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

##### **Capital Item - Treatment Facility**

*A motion for \$551,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, seconded by Rep. Adams and so voted unanimously.*

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Wilson read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 26, 2016. Minutes are on file.*

*Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Loughlin.*

**Account 1064 - Parks & Recreation**

*A motion for \$1,623,351 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,572,380 was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Frickman.*

*Rep. Conley stated that this account reflects above average salaries and positions that could be consolidated. She added that Meals on Wheels was moved from this account to the Service Agencies account.*

*Rep. Neugent stated that the department showed a 5.8% decrease from last years' budget. She supports the Town Council's and RTM Committee number.*

*Responding to Rep. McDermott, Parks & Recreation Director Mark Berry stated that with the second amended number a position would need to be cut. He added that other services such as the 4th of July activities and Senior Center transportation would be affected.*

*Rep. Steinfeld noted that this account has already been cut by the Town Manager and the Town Council.*

*Responding to numerous questions, Parks & Recreation Director Mark Berry explained that they offer a wide variety of programs for health and wellness. He stated that the increase in the seasonal personnel cost center was due to drivers going from part-time to regular part-time which means more hours. He added that a request was made for an additional seasonal position. He continued to say that the Recreation Department offers close to 600 programs with the Senior Center offering about 400.*

*Reps. Bauer, Obrey, J. Streeter and Welles stated they support full funding of this account.*

*Rep. Conley stated that this account is about personnel, not programs and that positions could be consolidated and not lose any programs.*

*Responding to additional questioning, Director Berry stated that they sponsor many fundraising events in the Recreation Department and Senior Center. He added that if there are personnel cuts, we may lose money, while trying to save it. Director Berry disclosed that raising fees at this time is not an option. He confirmed that many seniors complain that prices are already too high and that when they raised the price of summer camps, they saw a 23% decrease in participation. He confirmed that there is a non-resident fee charged for these programs.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,598,000 was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Rep. Conley stated that this was a compromise number.*

*The vote on \$1,598,000 failed 10 in favor, 16 opposed. In favor: Reps. Bailey, Conley, Frickman, Loughlin, McCabe, Nault, Newsome, Quinn, Sliker-Hersant and Wilson.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,613,351 was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Rep. Conley stated that this is a compromise number which will still save the taxpayer money.*

*Rep. Wilson clarified that the 5.8% decrease on this account is a decrease on last year's requested amount.*

*The vote on \$1,613,351 failed 11 in favor, 15 opposed. In favor: Reps. Bailey, Conley, Frickman, Loughlin, McCabe, McDermott, Nault, Newsome, Quinn, Sliker-Hersant and Wilson.*

*Rep. Conley second amended motion was withdrawn.*

*The vote on \$1,623,351 carried 21 in favor, 5 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Conley, Frickman, Loughlin and Newsome.*

#### **Capital Item - Trail Improvement Program**

*A motion for \$15,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Nault.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Frickman, seconded by Rep. Conley.*

*Rep. Frickman stated that the trails are usable now and funding could wait.*

*The vote on \$0 carried 18 in favor, 8 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Adams, Baril, McCabe, Neugent, Obrey, I. Streeter, J. Streeter and Welles.*

#### **Capital Item - Golf Course Comfort Station**

*A motion for \$50,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Conley.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. DeMatto, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Rep. Conley stated that women need a restroom and if the course would like to sponsor more tournaments, this project should be completed.*

*Rep. McDermott commented that it raises a level of sophistication to the course.*

*Rep. Wilson stated that it would benefit the course as a whole.*

*The vote on \$0 failed 5 in favor, 21 opposed. In favor: Reps. Bailey, Burgos, DeMatto, Evans and McCabe.*

*The vote on \$50,000 carried 21 in favor, 5 opposed: Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Burgos, DeMatto, Evans and McCabe.*

#### **Capital Item - Noank Dock**

*A motion for \$34,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Responding to Rep. DeMatto, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that he was not sure at this time if Local Capital Improvement Program Funds could be used for this project.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Nault, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Rep. Nault stated that he was recently at the dock and that it looked good. He added that the project was funded for \$100,000 last year and funding it this year would not be appropriate.*

*Discussion continued on whether it was cost effective due to the continued maintenance that is*

required.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that the dock is a well used facility in the summer. He noted that it is subject to surges and must be ADA compliant.

Director Berry reported that the new design would require less maintenance and that the dock has traditional value to the residents of Noank and the Town of Groton.

The vote on \$0 failed 4 in favor, 21 opposed, 1 abstention. In favor: Reps. Bailey, Conley, Frickman and Nault. Abstaining: Rep. Wilson.

The vote on \$34,000 carried 23 in favor, 3 opposed. Opposed: Rep. Bailey, Frickman, Nault.

Rep. Welles departed, 25 members present..

#### **Account 2010 - Shennecossett Golf Course Fund**

A motion for \$1,190,883 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Obrey.

The vote on \$1,190,883 carried 24 in favor, 1 opposed. Opposed: Rep. Bailey.

Rep. Welles returned, 26 members present.

#### **Account 3240 - Recreation & Senior Activities**

A motion for \$1,077,730 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Dematto and so voted unanimously.

At 10:25 p.m. the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

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#### **Budget Session - Wednesday, May 18, 2016**

Moderator Scott Newsome called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Members Present: Moderator Newsome, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Baker, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Burgos, Rep. Casper, Rep. Conley, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Evans, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Maher, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCabe, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Nault, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Obrey, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini, Rep. Quinn, Rep. Sliker-Hersant, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. I. Streeter, Rep. J. Streeter, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Welles and Rep. Wilson.

Members Absent: Rep. Baril, Rep. Cini, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Longino, Rep. Marley, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Wagner and Rep. Williams.

He stated that 33 members were present and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Baril, Swindell, Wagner and Williams notified the Town Clerk of their absence.

He announced that Account 1013 - Finance Administration was covered at the meeting on May 16th and was reported as carried 14 in favor, 11 opposed, 1 abstention. The correct count was 11 in favor, 14 opposed, 1 abstention. The account will be taken up again at the meeting on May 19th.

Rep. Massett suggested a roll call count on every account in the future.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Chief of Police Louis Fusaro, Police Captain

*Steve Sinagra, City Police Chief Thomas Davoren, City Mayor Marian Galbraith, Deputy Mayor Keith Hedrick, Town Mayor Bruce Flax, Town Councilors, City Councilors, Manager of Emergency Communications Joseph Sastre, Steve Christina from Groton Ambulance, Christopher Clarkin from Mystic River Ambulance, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Town Clerk Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.*

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

*Chairman McDermott read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 12, 2016. Minutes are on file.*

*A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. McDermott, seconded by Rep. Adams and so voted unanimously.*

*Chairman McDermott read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on May 4, 2016. Minutes are on file.*

*A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. McDermott, seconded by Rep. Parker and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 1024 - Public Safety**

*A motion for \$6,775,954 as approved by committee was made by Rep. McDermott, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$6,491,526 was made by Rep. McDermott, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Rep. McDermott stated that this number was a 5% reduction from the Town Manager's number. He added that he had done a comparison to similar Towns and Cities in Connecticut. He found that Groton had 69 officers on board compared to 50 officers in other similar Towns. He continued to say that not all communities are the same but you can still make a sound judgement with all the information available.*

*Chief Fusaro addressed the RTM stating that the increase in the budget was due to personnel services. Union contracts increased pay and benefits after a comparison of pay and benefits of surrounding Town and City Police Departments. He talked about the Department's commitment to Community Policing and training of personnel to the highest standards. He added that the Department is engaged with the community and other community groups. He continued to say that they have restructured the way they do business and need adequate staffing for optimal performance. He confirmed that decade old firearms need replacement and that cost was incorporated into the budget. He noted that it is sometimes cheaper to replace the whole gun rather than in pieces. He stated that if cuts were made, there would be a reduction in overtime, eliminating some civilian positions and putting officers and detectives that are now working on drug programs back on patrol.*

*Responding to numerous questions, Chief Fusaro explained that it takes a considerable amount of time before an officer becomes an asset to the force. They must go to the Academy and then there is additional training as well as on the job training. One of the problems was after the Academy and other training, officers were leaving Groton for better pay and benefits to other towns. He stated that there is one Resource Officer assigned to Fitch High School and if their budget is cut too deep, that officer would be back on patrol. He would like to keep this position, he believes that the students need to have a relationship with the same officer to be effective. He clarified that they are replacing officers by attrition.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$6,610,000 was made by Rep. J. Streeter, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Rep. J. Streeter stated that this was a compromise number.*

Responding to additional questions, Chief Fusaro talked about the drug problem that exists and stated the police are only part of the solution. He stated that the department is undertaking Narcan Kit training.

The vote on \$6,610,000 carried 18 in favor, 15 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Bauer, Burgos, Casper, DeMatto, Frickman, Gilly, Hubbard, Massett, Merritt, Neugent, Obrey, Steinfeld, I. Streeter, Watrous and Welles.

#### **Account 1014 -Emergency Communications**

A motion for \$1,376,338 as approved by committee was made by Rep. McDermott, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,310,549 was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Parker.

Responding to numerous questions, Manager of Emergency Communications Joseph Sastre explained that there are 13 dispatchers, they work 10 to 12 hour days and 3 to 4 days a week. He reported that \$230,000 was paid in overtime last year. He stated that they looked at straight 8 hour shifts but that would require 18 dispatchers. He stated that it was less to pay overtime rather than hire an additional 5 dispatchers. He explained the cost centers for holiday pay and sick incentive allowances. He continued to explain the reason for the increase in the cost center for maintenance of the radio control console. He explained the emergency preparation for storms, downed wires and trees. He talked about the possibility of consolidation of some emergency centers in the future. He reported that of 76,000 calls last year, 42,000 of them were dispatched incidents.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Conley.

The vote on moving the question carried 27 in favor, 6 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Deane-Shinbrot, DeMatto, Massett, Neugent, Obrey and Steinfeld.

The vote on \$1,310,549 failed 12 in favor, 21 opposed. In favor: Reps. Bailey, Baker, Conley, Loughlin, McCabe, McDermott, Nault, Newsome, Parker, Pasqualini, Quinn and Wilson.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,343,444 was made by Rep. Adams, seconded by Rep. Hubbard.

Rep. Adams stated that this was a compromise number.

Responding to Rep. DeMatto, Manager Sastre stated that a lay-off is possible with this number.

The vote on \$1,343,444 failed 16 in favor, 17 opposed. In favor: Reps. Adams, Bailey, Burgos, Conley, Deane-Shinbrot, Evans, Loughlin, Maher, McCabe, Nault, Newsome, Parker, Pasqualini, Quinn, Sliker-Hersant and Wilson.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,355,000 was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Bailey.

Rep. Conley stated that this was a compromise number, she added that there is room in overtime and allowances. She suggested that a few part-time dispatchers be hired.

Rep. Nault commented on the operating expenses increasing from \$149,000 to \$183,000 in two years. He supports the new number.

Reps. Bauer, Casper, Neugent and Obrey support the Town Council and RTM committee approved number.

*The vote on \$1,355,000 carried 18 in favor, 15 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Bauer, Casper, DeMatto, Frickman, Gilly, Hubbard, Massett, Merritt, Neugent, Obrey, Steinfeld, I. Streeter, J. Streeter, Watrous and Welles.*

*A recess was called at 8:55 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:20 p.m.*

**Account 1026 - Ambulance Services**

**Account 10260 - Groton Ambulance**

*A motion for \$52,976 as approved by committee was made by Rep. McDermott, seconded by Rep. Parker.*

*In response to Rep. Merritt, Town Manager Mark Oefinger believes that the cut the Town Council gave this account was to challenge Groton Ambulance to do a better job.*

*Steve Christina of Groton Ambulance addressed the RTM. He stated that they would be able to manage with this number. He noted that they would be reducing services to 18 hours a day, 7 days a week. They would also be eliminating some part-time positions. He added that they are looking into charging for sporting and special events and recruiting volunteers.*

*Rep. Wilson mentioned that they only get paid for transport. Responding to 5,056 calls, they only were paid for 3,620 of them.*

*Rep. Nault reminded the RTM that Groton Ambulance uses a Town owned building rent free and pays no taxes.*

*The vote on \$52,976 carried 31 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. Opposed: Rep. Loughlin. Abstaining: Rep. Steinfeld.*

**Account 10261 - Mystic River Ambulance**

*A motion for \$25,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. McDermott, seconded by Rep. Wilson.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$50,000 was made by Rep. Obrey, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*Rep. Obrey stated that the public service provided should be considered.*

*Rep. Wilson confirmed that the Town Council approved \$25,000 and any amount higher than that would require a 2/3 vote.*

*Responding to numerous questions, Christopher Clarkin of Mystic River Ambulance stated that they receive \$35,000 from Stonington. He explained their bundled billing procedure and stated they may have to do some re-financing if budget is cut.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$40,000 was made by Rep. Loughlin, seconded by Rep. Wilson.*

*Reps. McDermott and Nault noted that Mystic River Ambulance has half the volume of Groton Ambulance.*

*The vote on \$40,000 failed 1 in favor, 31 opposed, 1 abstention. In favor: Rep. Loughlin. Abstaining: Rep. Steinfeld.*

*The vote on \$50,000 failed 5 in favor, 28 opposed. In favor: Reps. Loughlin, Merritt, Obrey, Wilson and Welles.*

*The vote on \$25,000 carried 29 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstention. Opposed: Reps. Loughlin,*

*Merritt and Obrey. Abstaining: Rep. Steinfeld.*

**Total for Account 1026 - \$77,976**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE ( continued )**

**Account 10900 - City of Groton Police**

*A motion for \$2,250,819 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Wilson.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$2,303,893 was made by Rep. Nault, seconded by Rep. Wilson.*

*Rep. Nault stated that this number equals the same percentage cut as the Town Police received.*

*The vote on \$2,303,893 carried 29 in favor, 4 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Gilly, Loughlin, Merritt and Obrey.*

**Account 10901 - City of Groton Highway Maintenance**

*A motion for \$1,169,801 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Rep. Conley noted that this account is a problem every year due to the fact the RTM has no authority over it. She suggested that Charter revision take a look at this account.*

*Responding to numerous questions, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that the Town Council decided to follow the same authority for the amount. He noted that the arbitration will hopefully give direction to both parties to resolve the issue. He added that a significant amount of legal fees are associated with this ongoing issue.*

*The vote on \$1,169,801 carried 30 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions. Opposed: Rep. Merritt. Abstaining: Reps. Bauer and Parker.*

**Account 10904 - City of Groton Street Lighting**

*A motion for \$113,351 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*Rep. Gilly departed, 32 members present.*

*Responding to Rep. McDermott, Town Manager Mark Oefinger confirmed that this account was for the Cities electric charges.*

*The vote on \$113,351 carried unanimously.*

**Account 10905 - Highway Pending Arbitration**

*A motion for \$738,501 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Rep. Gilly returned, 33 members present.*

*The vote on \$738,501 carried unanimously.*

**Total for Account 1090 - \$4,325,546**

*At 10:22 p.m. the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.*

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**Budget Session - Thursday, May 19, 2016**

*Moderator Scott Newsome called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.*

*Members Present: Moderator Newsome, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Baker, Rep. Baril, Rep. Burgos, Rep. Casper, Rep. Conley, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Evans, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCabe, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Nault, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Obrey, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini, Rep. Quinn, Rep. Sliker-Hersant, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. I. Streeter, Rep. J. Streeter, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous and Rep. Welles.*

*Members Absent: Rep. Bauer, Rep. Cini, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Longino, Rep. Maher, Rep. Marley, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Williams and Rep. Wilson.*

*He stated that 29 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

*The Moderator reported that Reps. Frickman, Hubbard, Maher, Swindell, Williams and Wilson notified the Town Clerk of their absence.*

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Manager of Emergency Communications Joseph Sastre, Finance Director Cindy Landry, Assessor Mary Gardner, Manager of Information Technology Brian Hancock, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Town Clerk Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.*

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE ( continued )**

##### **Capital Item - Dispatch Work Station Replacement**

*A motion for \$25,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. McDermott.*

*Responding to numerous questions, Manager of Emergency Communications Joseph Sastre explained that this is a Dispatch Console Work Station. It is built for 24/7 operations and is ADA compliant. He stated that they would get a 50% reimbursement from the State 911 Fund. He added that by definition this is a Capital Improvement Project.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$35,000 was made by Rep. Steinfeld, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Rep. Steinfeld stated that this was the approved number of the Town Council and RTM Committee.*

*The vote on \$35,000 carried 20 in favor, 9 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Baker, Conley, Deane-Shinbrot, McCabe, Nault, Newsome, Parker, Pasqualini and Quinn.*

*Rep. Marley arrived, 30 members present.*

*MOTION TO RECONSIDER Account 1024 was made by Rep. J. Streeter, seconded by Rep. McDermott.*

*Rep. J. Streeter stated that the percentage of cut to the Town and City Police should be equal.*

*Moderator Newsome discussed the rules and procedures regarding a motion to reconsider.*

*The vote on the motion to reconsider carried 21 in favor, 9 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Conley, Deane-Shinbrot, Evans, Loughlin, Marley, McCabe, Parker, Pasqualini and Quinn.*

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ( continued )**

##### **Account 1024 - Public Safety**

*The motion was to reconsider the amount of \$6,610,000 that was made by Rep. J. Streeter, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and approved at the May 18th meeting.*

*The vote on reconsidering the \$6,610,000 failed 10 in favor, 20 opposed. In favor: Reps. Bailey, Baker, Conley, Evans, Loughlin, Marley, McCabe, Parker, Pasqualini and Quinn.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$6,662,357 was made by Rep. J. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Rep. Conley stated that the RTM voted in good faith on May 18th and that number should remain the same.*

*The vote on \$6,662,357 carried 24 in favor, 6 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Burgos, Conley, Loughlin, Parker and Pasqualini.*

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE ( continued )**

##### **Account 1013 - Finance Administration**

*The continuation of this account is to correct an erroneous count that was reported at the May 16th meeting.*

*The corrected vote on \$1,393,797 is failed 11 in favor, 14 opposed, 1 abstention. In favor; Reps. Adams, Baril, Burgos, DeMatto, Massett, Neugent, Obrey, Steinfeld, I. Streeter, J. Streeter and Welles. Abstaining: Rep. Watrous.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,384,008 was made by Rep. I. Streeter, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Rep. Watrous disclosed that she is a Town employee working in the Finance Department.*

*Rep. Conley reminded the RTM that they just added \$62,000 to the last two accounts and that there is a 7 million dollar deficit.*

*Responding to Rep. DeMatto, Finance Director Cindy Landry noted that any cuts would have an impact on services and positions.*

*The vote on \$1,384,008 failed 11 in favor, 19 opposed. In favor: Reps. Adams, Baril, Burgos, DeMatto, Massett, Merritt, Nault, Neugent, I. Streeter, J. Streeter and Welles.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,376,903 was made by Rep. Adams, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*The vote on \$1,376,903 carried 20 in favor, 9 opposed, 1 abstention. Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Conley, Evans, Loughlin, Marley, McDermott, Nault, Newsome and Pasqualini. Abstaining: Rep. Parker.*

##### **Account 1011 - Information Technology**

*A motion for \$990,895 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Manager of Information Technology Brian Hancock stated that a \$52,000 cut on the departments requested amount would definitely have an impact on services and that a position may have to be cut. He noted that maintenance contracts are set and those costs will not change. He added that the department will be able to manage but you would see an impact on services.*

*Responding to questions on services to Fire Districts, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that the Town provides Dispatch and IT services to the Fire Districts. He noted that historically the policy was not to charge for these services, but it is something we can take a look at.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,020,089 was made by Rep. I. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*The vote on \$1,020,089 failed 12 in favor, 17 opposed, 1 abstention. In favor: Reps. Baker, Baril, Burgos, Casper, Massett, Merritt, Obrey, Steinfeld, I. Streeter, J. Streeter, Watrous and Welles. Abstaining: Rep. Adams.*

*The vote on \$990,895 carried 24 in favor, 6 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Adams, Merritt, Obrey, Steinfeld, I. Streeter and Welles.*

#### **Account 6050 - Technology Replacement Fund**

*A motion for \$88,958 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$70,833 was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*Rep. Conley stated that replacing equipment that is in working condition is not a good fit in this budget.*

*Responding to Rep. Neugent, IT Manager Brian Hancock stated that this a scheduled hardware replacement fund and that if it is cut, fewer desktop computers would be purchased.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$84,722 was made by Rep. Neugent, seconded by Rep. Baril.*

*Rep. Neugent stated that this was the Town Council approved number.*

*Responding to Rep. McDermott, IT Manager Brian Hancock stated that these computers to be purchased were more memory systems and that they would be purchased in bulk.*

*Rep. Marley stated that these are wants, not needs, they are luxury items and considers it irresponsible spending.*

*The vote on \$84,722 failed 12 in favor, 18 opposed. In favor: Reps. Adams, Baril, Casper, DeMatto, Massett, Merritt, Neugent, Obrey, Steinfeld, I. Streeter, Watrous and Welles.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$78,000 was made by J. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Rep. J. Streeter stated that this was a compromise number.*

*The vote on \$78,000 failed 15 in favor, 15 opposed. In favor: Reps. Adams, Baker, Baril, Casper, DeMatto, Massett, McDermott, Merritt, Neugent, Obrey, Steinfeld, I. Streeter, J. Streeter, Watrous and Welles.*

*The vote on \$70,833 carried 19 in favor, 11 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Adams, Baril, DeMatto, Massett, Merritt, Obrey, Steinfeld, I. Streeter, J. Streeter, Watrous and Welles.*

*A recess was called at 8:55 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:10 p.m.*

#### **Capital Item - Network Infrastructure Upgrade**

*A motion for \$100,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Capital Item - Computer Technology Acquisition - Software Systems**

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Parker.*

*Rep. Nault noted that the \$450,000 appropriated over the last two years for this Capital Item is still work in progress. He urged the delay of funding the project for this year.*

*Rep. McDermott suggested the Town look into outsourcing some software systems.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$500,000 was made by Rep. DeMatto, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*Rep. DeMatto stated that this plan should get started.*

*Director of Information Technology Brian Hancock stated that they are ready to go forward on this project and that number would get it started.*

*The vote on \$500,000 failed 9 in favor, 21 opposed. In favor: Reps. Baril, DeMatto, Massett, Merritt, Obrey, Steinfeld, J. Streeter, Watrous and Welles.*

*The vote on \$0 carried 21 in favor, 9 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Baril, DeMatto, Massett, Merritt, Obrey, Steinfeld, J. Streeter, Watrous and Welles.*

**Account 1092 - Fire District PILOT**

*A motion for \$246,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Adams and so voted unanimously.*

**Account 2060 - Mumford Cove**

*A motion for \$21,028 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*The vote on \$21,028 carried 29 in favor, 1 opposed. Opposed: Rep. Steinfeld.*

**Account 4010 - Groton Sewer District**

*A motion for \$828,774 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

**Account 1077 - Contributions to Other Funds**

**Account 10770 - Fleet Reserve Fund**

*A motion for \$450,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

**Account 10771 - Revaluation Fund**

*A motion for \$128,250 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

**Total for Account 1077 - \$578,250**

*A recess was called at 9:50 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:00 p.m.*

**Account 1075 - Capital Reserves/Contributions**

**Account 10750 Capital Reserve Fund**

*A motion for \$644,000 was made by Moderator Newsome, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*The vote on \$644,000 carried 29 in favor, 1 opposed. Opposed: Rep. DeMatto.*

**Account 10752 - Capital Reserve Contribution**

*A motion for \$200,000 was made by Moderator Newsome, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Marley.*

*Responding to numerous questions, Town Manager Mark Oefinger noted that this is a new account. This is a contingency fund for an emergency such as a roof replacement. He added that the intent of this fund is to have a pool of money to cover the cost of emergency projects. He continued to say that it would take the approval of the RTM for expenditures over \$10,000. He noted that \$200,000 is not much but is a beginning to start saving for the future.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$100,000 was made by Rep. Evans, seconded by Rep. DeMatto.*

*Rep. Evans stated that this is a compromise number.*

*The vote on \$100,000 carried 20 in favor, 10 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Baker, Conley, Loughlin, Marley, McCabe, Merritt, Nault, Parker, Pasqualini and Quinn.*

**Total for Account 1075 - \$744,000**

**Account 5010 - Capital Reserve**

*A motion for \$1,795,000 was made by Moderator Newsome, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

**Account 1076 - Debt Service**

*A motion for \$4,967,757 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Massett and so voted unanimously.*

**Account 1074 - Contingency**

*A motion for \$300,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Parker.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger strongly recommended at least \$550,000 of funding for this account. He noted that there are 5 open contracts in negotiation that are not budgeted for this year. He stated that \$550,000 was appropriated last year and when the 4th quarter transfers are completed, this account will have a zero balance.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$550,000 was made by Rep. DeMatto, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*Rep. Conley stated that the Groton taxpayers do not want an increase in their taxes. The Town must use its options for a hiring freeze, furloughs and cut all unnecessary spending.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$425,000 was made by Rep. Neugent, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Rep. Neugent stated that this was a compromise number.*

*The vote on \$425,000 carried 18 in favor, 12 opposed. Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Conley, Loughlin, Marley, McCabe, McDermott, Nault, Newsome, Parker, Pasqualini, Quinn and Slieker-Hersant.*

**H ADJOURNMENT**

*The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 10:40 p.m.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the RTM*

*Michael Thorpe, Town Clerk Office Assistant II*